

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 03530 281659Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
SY-05 /067 W
-----010232 075271 /67

R 281509Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2213
USIA WASHDC
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 3530

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR PROP EG UR US
SUBJECT: DISINFORMATION

REF (A) CAIRO 3418-C (B) CAIRO 3080-C (C) CAIRO 3136-C

SUMMARY: ROSE AL YUSUF WHICH APPEARED FEB 27 CARRIES
COVER STORY ON EMBASSY'S PRESS RELEASE ON FOREGERY. STORY
REASONABLY HELPFUL. AMBASSAODR FEB. 26 SENT COPIES PRESS
RELEASE TO ALL COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN EPOLE'S ASSEMBLY.

BEING UNCLASSIFIED

1. ISSUE OF ROSE AL YUSUF WHICH APPEARED IN CAIRO FEB. 27
CARRIED ON COVER A FACSIMILE OF TITLE PAGE OF FOREGED USIS ATHENS
DOCUMENT, OVERPRINTED WITH RED HEADLINE: "THE AMERICAN EMBASSY
ACKNOWLEDGES THE DOCUMENT AND DENOUNCES IT AS FOGERY".

STORY FILLING PAGE 5 UNDER SAME HEADLINE READS AS FOLLOWS:

2. QUOTE. THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN CAIRO, IN AN OFFICIAL RELEASE
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ISSUED THIS WEEK, ACKNOWLEDGED THE DOCUMENT THAT ROSE AL YUSUF
PUBLISHED I ITS LAST ISSUE, AND WHICH PUT ON RECORD DEMANDS
BY SOME AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN TO TOPPLE THE NATIONALIST REGIME
IN EGYPT.

THE EMBASSY SAID IN ITS RELEASE THAIT ACTUALLY HAD A COPY
OF THIS DOCUMENT, AND THAT OTHER COPIES HAD ARRIVED EGYPT

BEARING THE NAME OF THE U.S. INFORMATION SERVICE IN ATHENS
WITH A "RESTRICTED" STAMP ON ITS FRONTPAGE AND DATED APRIL 26
OF LAST YEAR*
BUT THE EMBASSY DENOUNCED THE DOCUMENT AS A FOREGERY. IT DENIED
IT HAD BEEN RELEASED BY THE OFFICE IT IS ATTRIBUTED TO. THE
EMBASSY SAID IT WAS FORGED IN THE NAME OF THAT OFFICE WITH
THE INTENTION OF POISONING AMERICAN-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS.

WHAT THE STATEMENT DID NOT MENTION
THE EMBASSY'S STATEMENT DID NOT MENTION THE SOURCE WHICH
FORGED THE DOCUMENT IN THE NAME OF THE U.S. INFORMATION SERVICE,
ALTHOUGH U.S. INTELLIGENCE MEN ARE KNOWN FOR THE ABILITY TO
UNCOVER THE MOST MINUTE SECRETS*

THE STATEMENT ALSO DID NOT EXPLAIN WHY THE EMBASSY KEPT QUIET
ABOUT THE DOUCMENT ALL HIS TIME THOUGH IT HAD IT, AND KNEW THAT
OTHER COPIES WERE RECEIVED BY EGYPTIANS, INCLUDING OFFICIALS.
WHY DID THE EMBASSY NOT DENOUNCE IT AS A FOREGERY UNTIL ROSE
AL-YUSUF MADE IT PUBLIC, AS A WARNING AND AS A COMMITMENT TO
NATIONAL DUTY.

YET THE (EMBASSY) STATEMENT WAS WELCOMED BY EGYPTIAN CIRCLES,
AND BY ROSE A
JAYUSUF IN PARTICULAR, BECAUSE IT MEANS IMPLICITLY
THE CONDEMNATION OF THE HOSTILE TENDECNY EXPRESSED IN THE
DOCUMENT IN RESPECT TO THE NATIONALIST REGIME IN EGYPT. IT
OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCES THE REJECTION OF THIS TENDENCY BY
PRESIDENT CARTER'S ADMINISTRATION AND ITS COMMITMENT NOT TO BE
INVOLVED IN IT.
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AL-GUMHURIA FORGES A STATEMENT AND PUBLISHES IT IN THE NAME
OF THE EMBASSY*
THE OTHER FORGERY*
THE MOST INTERESTING PART OF THE STORY IS THAT THE AMERICAN
EMBASSY STATEMENT, WHICH DENOUNCED THE DOCUMENT OF THE ATHENS
OFFICE AS A FOREGERY, WAS ALOS THE VICTIM OF A NEW FORGERY*
THE (EMBASSY'S) STATEMENT EMPHASIZED THE EXISTENCE OF THE
DOCUMENT, THE PRESENCE OF A COPY AT THE EMBASSY AND THE RECEIPT
OF OTHER COPIES BY VARIOUS EGYPTIANS. BUT "AL-GOMHOURIYA"
NESSPAPER FRONTPAGED: "THE AMERICAN EMBASSY SAID THAT THE ROSE
AL-YUSUF STORY WAS COMPLETELY FABRICATED.**" AL-AKHBAR
SUMMARIZED THE EMBASSY STATEMENT UNDER THIS HEADLINE: "THE
DOCUMENT SENT TO ROSE AL-YUSUF IS FORGED," AND AL-AHRAM
SUMMARIZED THE STATEMENT UNDER THE HEADLINE: "AMERICAN EMBASSY
REVEALS FOREGERY OF REPORT PUBLISHED BY EGYPTIAN MAGAINZE."
MEANWHILE, THE BOXED FRONTPAGE HEADLINE IN AL-GOMHOURIYA WAS
"ROSE AL-YUSUF DOCUMENT WAS FORGED."* THUS, AL-GOMHOURIYA
PUT THE U.S. EMBASSY STATEMENT ASIDE, AND FORGED, INSTEAD, A

STATEMENT ACCUSING ROSE AL-YUSUF OF FORGERY AND CLAIMING THAT THE STORY ROSE AL-YUSUF PUBLISHED WAS COMPLETELY FABRICATED. MOREOVER, SUCH A PUBLISHED (CHARGE) WAS ATTRIBUTED TO THE U.S. EMBASSY*

MOST PROBABLY THE EMBASSY WILL NOT ISSUE A STATEMENT AGAINST THIS NEW FORGERY BECAUSE IT IS MORE USEFUL AND REMOVES THE BLAME BETTER THAN THE CONSERVATIVE STATEMENT WHICH THE EMBASSY RELEASED TO THE PRESS LAST TUESDAY EVENING.

NOTE: CONTRARY TO TRADITIONAL PRACTICE, ESPECIALLY BY THE AMERICANS, THE AMERICAN EMBASSY SENT ITS STATEMENT TO ALL EGYPTIAN NEWSPAPERS WITH THE EXCEPTION OF ROSE AL-HYUSUF*
UNQUOTE

3. IN RESPONSE TO APPARENT PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY INTEREST (REFTEL A) IN DISINFORMATION CASE, COPIES OF USIS PRESS RELEASE ON THE MATTER WERE SENT EARLY FEB. 26 TO ALL 41 MEMBERS OF PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE AND TO CHAIRPERSONS OF ALL CONFIDENTIAL

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17 OTHER PA COMMITTEES. AMBASSADOR SIGNED COVER LETTERS SAYING HE WISHED BRING OUR STATEMENT TO THEIR ATTENTION. AS YET NEITHER MFA NOR PA HAS CONTACTED EMBASSY ON IT.

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4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH ROSE AL YUSUF ARTICLE ON THE FACE OF IT IS NOT A MEA MULPA, EGYPTIAN READERS WILL BE IMPRESSED BY MAGAZINE'S ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND SUPPORT OF EMBASSY STATEMENT. BY PUTTING OUR LABEL "FORGERY" INTO HEADLINE, REPEATING IT IN ARTICLE, AND SAYING EGYPTIANS INCLUDING ROSE WELCOME OUR PRESS RELEASE, MAGAZINE TACTITLY ACCEPTS OUR WORD WHICH IS BEST WE COULD HOPE FOR FROM THIS PUBLICATION. ARTICLE IS UNDERSTANDABLY DEFENSIVE, AND ASKS QUESTIONS OF EMBASSY IN ORDER DIVERT ATTENTION FROM ITS OWN FAILURE TO CHECK STORY OUT. ROSE ASKS US WHO AUTHORED FORGERY, BUT IN ACCORDANCE DEPT INSTRUCTIONS WE DID NOT SPECULATE ON THAT. ROSE FOOTNOTE CLAIMING WE FAILED SEND ROSE OUR PRESS RELEASE IS SIMPLY UNTRUE: WE SENT COPIES FEB 22 TO FOUR DIFFERENT ROSE EDITORS, AND ON FEB 25 SENT ANOTHER TO BOARD CHAIRMAN WHEN HE CLAIMED NOT TO HAVE SEEN IT. PAO SEEING BOARD CHAIRMAN TOMORROW, WILL MAKE THESE POINTS ORALLY TO HIM. DO NOT BELIEVE ANOTHER WRITTEN PRESS RELEASE AT THIS TIME WOULD BE IN OUR INTEREST.

5. SIGNIFICANTLY, SAME ISSUE OF ROSE CARRIED ON PP 8-9 ENTITLED "THE SOVIETS AND COMMUNISTS IN EGYPT", BY EDITOR SALAH HAFIZ, WHO IS KNOWN TO BE MARXIST. HAFIZ ATTACKES SOVIETS FOR THEIR PRESS RADIO AND CRITICISM OF GOE. HE SAYS EVEN EGYPTIAN COMMUNISTS OBJECT TO MOSCOW'S CAMPAIGN AGAINST GOE SINCE CAMPAIGN

BASED SOLELY ON GOE OPPOSITION TO MOSCOW'S POLICIES. HE WARNS
THAT MOSCOW MADE "SAME MISTAKE" BEFORE WITH TITO AND NASSER.
ALTHOUGH HAFIZ DOES NOT SPECIFICALLY MENTION OUR DISINFORMATION
CASE, THIS ANTI-SOVIET ARTICLE BY LEADING MARXIST WRITER MAY
BE MAGZINE'S WAY OF HELPING TO "BALANCE" ITS PRINTING LAST
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WEEK OF FOREGERY HARMFUL TO U.S.
EILTS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PROPAGANDA, FORGERY, DOCUMENTS, PRESS RELEASES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 28-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Format: TEL
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977024/aaaaadii.tel
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Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 CAIRO 3418, 77 CAIRO 3080, 77 CAIRO 3136
Retention: 0
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Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3315608
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DISINFORMATION
TAGS: PFOR, PROP, EG, UR, US
To: STATE USIA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f52e4bc6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
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